GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4174
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
CRUISE SERVICES
Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given No Objection Certificate to M/s. Star Cruises, Malaysia for operating cruise services in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has analyzed the cost and benefits of the services;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has decided to extend the services to the ports of Chennai and Pondicherry; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has given no objection to M/s. Star Cruises of Malaysia for operation of Cruise Services from Mumbai to Lakshadweep (Kadmat Island) and Mumbai to Goa.

(c) & (d) Government has not done any formal cost benefit analysis, however, it is undeniable that its benefit to Indian economy would far outweigh the costs as far as international cruise liners calling at Indian Ports is concerned. The benefits include the vessel related revenue accrual to the ports, purchase of local goods by the cruise tourists, consumption of various types of domestic services offered by airlines, tourist taxis, hotels, restaurants, bunkers, etc. As regards financial costs, there are no costs other than maintaining cruise terminal and providing reception/ immigration facilities etc.

(e) & (f) The Government has not received any proposal from any cruise line in this regard.